



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 24, 2000

H.R. 3584

A bill to amend titles 10 and 14, United States Code, to provide for the use of gold in the metal content of the Medal of Honor

As introduced on February 8, 2000

H.R. 3584 would require that the metal content of the Congressional Medal of Honor be 90 percent gold and 10 percent alloy. Substituting gold for the gilding metal and brass that are now used would cost about \$2,300 per medal. CBO believes the Department of Defense (DoD) would have to purchase 150 medals to replace existing stocks and a smaller number each year thereafter to replenish the stock of medals as new ones are awarded. In addition, we assume that DoD would allow current medal holders to receive the new medal although the bill would not require it. CBO estimates that up to 900 living recipients or their eligible next-of-kin would request the new medal. (Since World War I, between 900 and 1,000 individuals have been awarded the medal out of over 3,400 recipients since the Civil War.) We estimate that H.R. 3584 would cost \$2 million to \$3 million over the 2001-2005 period and less than \$1 million in any one year, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Because H.R. 3584 would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

This bill contains no private-sector or intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact is Evan Christman. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.